

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims according to the following listing, in which insertions are indicated by underline and deletions are indicated by strikethrough or double brackets. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic ~~supersonic~~ washing method for clothes etc., said method comprising the steps of:

storing clothes etc. in a plurality of kinds of washing baskets by being sorted;

removing gases such as air contained in clearances in the clothes etc. by charging each of the washing baskets into a pre-processing chamber through an inlet portion in a side surface of the pre-processing chamber and evacuating the pre-processing chamber, and then introducing deaerated washing fluid into the pre-processing chamber;

transferring the washing basket in the pre-processing chamber into a washing chamber through an outlet portion in a side surface of the pre-processing chamber, a shutter mechanism, and an inlet portion in a side surface of the washing chamber[[.]];;

then accomplishing deaeration while the washing fluid in the washing chamber is circulated, and at the same time, performing ultrasonic washing; and

transferring the washing basket in the washing chamber into a post-processing chamber through an outlet portion in a side surface of the washing chamber, a shutter mechanism, and an inlet portion in a side surface of the post-processing chamber to perform draining, characterized in that each of the shutter mechanisms is provided with a packing member and a shield member, which are capable of allowing the washing basket to pass through while shutting off the flow of washing fluid and air.

2. (Currently Amended) The ultrasonic ~~supersonic~~ washing method for clothes etc. according to claim 1, characterized in that the plurality of kinds of washing baskets include at least two kinds of baskets; one kind of basket stores clothes etc. hung on hangers by hanging the clothes etc. vertically, and the other kind of basket stores clothes etc. hung on hangers by stacking the clothes etc. horizontally.

3. (Canceled)